Funds under National Nutrition Mission

2098. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for release of funds under National Nutrition Mission is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Need for drastic changes in ICDS

2099. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank report on malnutrition among India's children calls for drastic reforms in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);

(b) whether according to the report, ICDS scheme has not been effective in tackling child undernutrition and it appears unlikely that the prevalence of malnutrition in India will fall from 54 per cent in 1990 to 27 per cent by 2015; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to tackle the child undernutrition effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The World Bank, in their report, titled "India's Undernourished Children —A call for Reform and Action" (August, 2005) has, *inter alia*, observed that ICDS has not yet succeeded in making a significant dent in child malnutrition and made certain recommendations to improve its effectiveness.

The World Bank Report has primarily based its findings on the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-II) conducted in 1998-99. NFHS-III is currently underway and its finding are likely to be available by the end of the year.

Improvement is a continuous process and a number of steps have been taken by the Government to improve the coverage and delivery of the services under the ICDS Scheme. Significant among these are:

(i) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 new projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs in the last year.

(ii) Further expansion (165 ICDS projects, 1.07 lakh AWCs, 25, 961 mini AWCs) is under active consideration.

Crimes against children

2100. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child trafficking, traditionally associated with only trafficking for commercial sex, is growing fast in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to National Human Rights Commission (MHRC), every year an average of 44,476 children go missing and of these 11,008 are never traced;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are no laws that specifically target child trafficking; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to have a separate legislation to deal with offences against children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the UNIFAM and the Institute of Social Science, New Delhi, conducted an Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India. The study has brought out that child trafficking is growing in India. The Action Research has a chapter on 'Missing Persons and Trafficking.' Available data shows that on a average 44476 children went missing every year and out of these, 11,008 children remained untraced.

(c) and (d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The